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IRVINE

MODERN STANDARD DRAMA.

No. LIX.

B R U T U S ;

OR,

THE FALL OF TARQUIN.

A Tragedy,

IN FIVE ACTS.

BY JOHN HOWARD PAYNE.

WITH THE STAGE BUSINESS, CAST OF CHARACTERS
COSTUMES, RELATIVE POSITIONS, ETC.

NEW-YORK:

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EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION.

JOHN HOWARD PAYNE, the author of "Brutus," is an American by birth. He was born in New York on the 9th June, 1794. At the early age of fifteen years, he was induced by circumstances to try his fortune on the stage, urged, doubtless, by the extraordinary success which had marked the career of the infant Roscius, Master William Henry West Betty. Young Payne made his first appearance at the Park theatre, in the character of *Young Norval*, and at once assumed a position in public estimation rarely achieved by actors who have spent years of toil in acquiring a knowledge of the histrionic art. The fame of the youthful *debutant* procured for him offers of engagements in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Richmond, and Boston, and during two or three subsequent years Mr. Payne travelled round the then usual circle of theatrical engagements, as a "star" of the first magnitude, as "the young American Roscius." The critical writers of the day awarded to him merit very little inferior to that possessed by his English contemporary, Master Betty. Mr. Payne was at length induced to visit London, where he appeared with tolerable success. He subsequently visited the provinces, with equal approbation. But the novelty of the infant school of prodigies had departed, and Mr. Payne, like his predecessor, did not appear to mature in talent, as he advanced in age. His theatrical experience, however, was turned to account: Mr. Payne devoted himself to literary pursuits, and commenced dramatic author. The following list of his productions, attest the fertility of his genius:—*Oswali of Athens*; *Richelieu, or a Broken Heart*; *Charles the Second*; *Procrastination*; *Married and Single*; *Plots at Home*; *Woman's Revenge*; *All for the Best*; *Brutus, or, the Fall of Tarquin*; *Virginia, or Patrician Perfidy*.—DRAMAS: *Spanish Husband*; *Therese, or the Orphan of Geneva*; *Norah, the Girl of Erin*;

Adeline, or Seduction; The Two Galley Slaves; The Rival Monarchs; Paoli; Solitary of Mount Savage; Ali Pacha; The Inseparables; The Guilty Mother; Man of the Black Forest; Madame de Berri; The Festival of St. Mark's; The Bridge of Kehl; the Judge and the Attorney; The Mill of the Lake; Mazeppa; Rovido, the Neapolitan; The Italian Bride.—OPERAS: Clari, the Maid of Milan; The White Maid; The Tyrolese Veasan; Visilendenes; England's Old Days.—FARCES: Tricondeau; The Post Chaise; 'Twas I; Mrs. Smith; Love in Humble Life; The Lancers; Grand Papa; Peter Smirk; Not Invited; Romulus, a tragedy. Many of these dramas retain permanent possession of the stage. They are all characterized by the admirable knowledge of dramatic effect, acquired by the author during his professional life. Such knowledge appears to be imperative to the dramatist, mechanical as it may seem to some. It is the setting of the jewel, without which the brightest gems of dramatic poetry are but dim and ineffective.

In the preface to this play, Mr. Payne remarks:—

“Seven plays upon the subject of Brutus are before the public. Only two have been thought capable of representation, and those two did not long retain possession of the stage. In the present play I have had no hesitation in adopting the conception and language of my predecessors, wherever they seemed likely to strengthen the plan which I had prescribed. This has been so done as to allow of no injury to personal feelings or private property. Such obligations, to be culpable, must be secret; but it may be observed, that no assistance of other writers can be available without an effort almost, if not altogether, as laborious as original composition.”

That Mr. Payne has skilfully adapted the materials thus furnished him by the authors, to whom he acknowledges his indebtedness, will not be denied. He has constructed from these sources a tragedy, that, from its dramatic situations, interesting incidents, and striking scenic effects, promises to keep its place among the most popular stock pieces of the modern drama.

The main defect in this tragedy is, that the whole interest is concentrated in one character. *Brutus* is made to so completely absorb the attention, as to exclude any participation of the interest of the spectator in any of the subordinate characters. But this defect is not chargeable upon the author. The play

was written for the elder Kean, when it was for the interest of the theatre that the great tragedian should be the cynosure of attraction in every new piece, in which his extraordinary talents were to be called into requisition. Indeed, Kean himself had established this rule of exclusive appropriation. To an author, this writing up to the peculiar talents and sole glorification of a particular actor, is a severe task.

Few dramatic writers have succeeded in producing a standard play, that has survived the theatrical lives of their representatives. Mr. Payne has been more fortunate than many of his predecessors and contemporaries ; for *Brutus* is still a favourite performance, in the hands of an adequate personator.

The inimitable acting of Kean in this Tragedy, will not readily be forgotten by those who witnessed his performance, on its first production at Drury Lane. The great actor was then in the very zenith of his fame. The part had been carefully fitted to his varied and peculiar powers, and he appeared to have thrown the whole force of his genius both into the conception and embodiment of the character ; and his success in the delineational most surpassed any of his previous efforts, great as they were. The delivery of the famous curse, in the third act, was one of those electric and brilliant specimens of his transcendent genius, which have never been surpassed by any of his contemporaries or successors. Nor was he less triumphant in the closing scene, where he condemns his son. It was another triumph of art, that was above criticism, and defied competition.

Brutus has found able representatives in this country, in the persons of Booth and Forrest, and is still occasionally played by these great actors, to the satisfaction of admiring audiences.

We subjoin to our remarks the original truly classical prologue, written for this play by the Rev. George Croly. H.

PROLOGUE,

Written by a FRIEND, Spoken by MR. H. KEMBLE.

TIME rushes o'er us; thick as evening clouds,
Ages roll back :—what calls them from their shrouds ?
What in full vision brings their good and great,
The men whose virtues make the nation's fate,
The far, forgotten stars of humankind ?
The STAGE—the mighty telescope of mind !
If later, luckless arts that stage profane,
The actor pleads—not guilty of the stain :
He, but the shadow flung on fashion's tide—
Yours, the high will that all its waves must guide :
Your voice alone, the great reform secures,
His, but the passing hour—the age is yours.

Our pledge is kept. Here *yet*, no chargers wheel,
No foreign slaves on ropes or scaffolds reel,
No gallick amazons, half naked, climb
From pit to gallery—the low sublime !
In Shakspeare's halls, shall dogs and bears engage ?
Where brutes are actors, be a booth the stage !
And we shall triumph yet. The cloud has hung
Darkly above—but day shall spring—*has* sprung—
The tempest has but swept, not shook the shrine ;
No lamp that genius lit has ceased to shine !
Still lives its sanctity. Around the spot
Hover high spirits—shapes of burning thought—
Viewless—but call them, on the dazzled eye
Descends their pomp of immortality :
Here, at your voice, Rowe, Otway, Southern, come.
Flashing like meteors through the age's gloom.
Perpetual *here*—king of th' immortal band,
Sits SHAKSPEARE crowned. He lifts the golden wand,
And all obey ;—the visions of the past
Rise as they lived—soft, splendid, regal, vast.
Then Ariel harps along the enchanted wave,
Then the Weird sisters thunder in their cave—
The spell is wound. Then shows his mightier art
The Moor's lost soul ; the hell of Richard's heart ;
And stamps, in fiery warning to all time,
The deep damnation of a tyrant's crime.

To-night we take our lesson from the tomb :
'Tis thy sad cenotaph, colossal Rome !

How is thy helmet cleft, thy banner low,
 Ashes and dust are all thy glory now !
 While o'er thy wreck, a host of monks and slaves,
 Totter to "seek dishonourable graves."

The story is of Brutus,—in that name
 Towered to the sun her eagle's wing of flame !
 When sank her liberty, that name of power
 Poured hallowed splendours round its dying hour.
 The lesson lived for man—that heavenward blaze
 Fixed on the pile the world's eternal gaze.

Unrivalled England ! to such memories thou,
 This hour dost owe the laurel on thy brow ;
 Those fixed, when earth was like a grave, thy tread,
 Prophet and warrior ! 'twixt the quick and dead—
 Those bade the war for man—those won the name
 That crowns thee—famed above all Roman fame.

Now, to our scene—we feel no idle fear,
 Sure of the hearts, the *British* justice here ;
 If we deserve it, sure of your applause—
 Then, hear for Rome, for England, for "our cause!"

CAST OF CHARACTERS.

Drury Lane, 1818. Arch St., Phil., 1847.

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <i>Brutus</i> | Mr. Kean. | Mr. C. Pitt. |
| <i>Titus</i> | " D. Fisher. | " Marsh. |
| <i>Sextus Tarquin</i> | " H. Kemble. | " Gallagher. |
| <i>Aruns</i> | " Penley. | " T. Johnstone. |
| <i>Claudius</i> | " Coveney. | " J. Dunn. |
| <i>Collatinus</i> | " Bengough. | " Henkins. |
| <i>Valerius</i> | " Holland. | " Ellsler. |
| <i>Lucretius</i> | " Powell. | " Mears. |
| <i>Horatius</i> | " Yarnold. | " Worrell. |
| <i>Celius</i> | " Carr. | " Henry. |
| <i>Flavius Corunna</i> | " Phillips. | " Bradford. |
| <i>Centurion</i> | " Ley. | " Thompson. |
| <i>First Plebeian</i> | " Marshall. | " W. Wood. |
| <i>Second Plebeian</i> | " Ebsworth. | " H. Davis. |
| <i>Third Plebeian</i> | " Smith. | " Colladine. |
| <i>Fourth Plebeian</i> | " Buxton. | " Antony. |
| <i>Fifth Plebeian</i> | | " Clark. |
| <i>Tullia</i> | Mrs. Glover. | Miss Wood. |
| <i>Tarquinia</i> | " W. West. | Mrs. Russell. |
| <i>Lucretia</i> | " Robinson. | Miss J. Hill. |
| <i>Lavinia</i> | Miss Ivers. | " Morgan. |
| <i>Priestess</i> | Mrs. Brereton. | " Davis. |

COSTUMES.

LUCIUS JUNIUS.—Moreen-coloured shirt, black velvet belt, flesh dress complete, and black sandals. *Second dress*: Crimson shirt, Roman cuirass, and lambarakins of silver leather, helmet, and red sandals. *Third dress*: Cream-coloured toga, white shirt, and black sandals.

TITUS.—White shirt, scarlet mantle trimmed with black velvet, flesh dress complete, black sandals, and white ribbon for the head.

SEXTUS TARQUIN.—Roman cuirass and lambarakins of gold, helmet, white shirt, red sandals, flesh dress complete, and scarlet mantle.

ARUNS.—Buff and silver Roman cuirass, white shirt, red sandals, scarlet mantle, and flesh dress complete.

CLAUDIUS.—Blue and silver Roman cuirass, white shirt, flesh dress complete, red sandals, and scarlet mantle.

COLLATINUS.—Roman scarlet and buff cuirass and lambarakins, red sandals, crimson mantle, and flesh dress complete. *Second dress*: toga, cream-coloured.

VALERIUS.—White shirt, cream-coloured toga, russet sandals, and flesh dress complete.

LUCRETIVS.—*Ibid.*

HORATIUS.—White shirt, crimson mantle, russet sandals, and flesh dress complete.

CELIUS.—Brown shirt, sandals, and flesh dress complete.

FLAVIUS CORUNNA.—Green shirt, Roman cuirass, sandals, and flesh dress complete.

CENTURION.—Blue and scarlet cuirass and lambarakins, one scarlet shoulder-piece, russet sandals, and flesh dress complete.

MESSENGER.—*Ibid.*

FIRST ROMAN.—Brown shirt and cap, sandals, and flesh dress complete.

SECOND ROMAN.—*Ibid.*

THIRD ROMAN.—*Ibid.*

TULLIA.—White train dress, scarlet toga, gold tiara, tied with long white ribbon.

TARQUINIA.—White train dress, puce-coloured toga, and gold tiara, tied with long white ribbon.

LUCRETIA.—White train dress, white toga, and white satin tiara, tied with long white ribbon.

PRIESTESS.—All white.

VESTAL.—White train dress, with chemesette boddice, and white ribbon through the hair.

LAVINIA.—White train dress trimmed with blue, blue toga, and white ribbon through the hair.

B R U T U S .

A C T I .

SCENE I.—*A Street in Rome.*

Enter VALERIUS and LUCRETIUS, R.

Val. Words are too feeble to express the horror
With which my soul revolts against this Tarquin.
By poison he obtained his brother's wife,
Then, by a baser murder, grasped the crown !
These eyes beheld that aged monarch, thrown
Down from the senate-house—his feeble limbs
Bruised by the pavement—his time-honoured locks,—
Which from the very robber would have gained
Respect and veneration—bathed in blood !
With difficulty raised, and tottering homeward,
The murderers followed—struck him—and he died !

Luc. Inexpiable crime !

Val. High in her regal chariot, Tullia came—
The corpse lay in the street. The charioteer
Turned back the reins in horror. ‘On, slave, on !
‘Shall dead men stop my passage to a throne ?’
Exclaimed the parricide. The gore was dashed
From the hot wheels up to her diadem !

Luc. And Heaven's avenging lightnings were withheld
Here rules this Tullia, while the king, her husband,
Wastes our best blood in giddy, guilty war !
Spirit of Marcus Junius !—Would the gods
Deign to diffuse thy daring through the land,
Rome from her trance with giant spirit would start,
Dash off her fetters, and amaze the world !

Val. Junius, didst say ? Oh ! tyranny long since
Had sunk—chained—buried in its native hell—
But Tarquin, trembling at his virtues, murdered
Him and his elder son. The younger, Lucius,

Then on his travels, 'scaped the tyrant's sword,
But lost his reason at their fearful fall.

Luc. Ay, the same Lucius, who now dwells with Tarquin,

The jest, the fool, the langhing-stock o' th' court,
Whom the young princes always carry with 'em
To be the butt of their unfeeling mirth.

Val. Hold! I hear steps. Great things may yet be done,

If we are men, and faithful to our country. [*Exeunt, L.*

SCENE II.—*The Camp before Ardea.*

Enter CLAUDIUS and ARUNS, laughing, L. S. E.

Aruns. There is no doctor for the spleen like Lucius.
What precious scenes of folly did he act
When, lately, through the glorious scenes of Greece,
He went with us to Delphi! But, behold,
Where, full of business, his wise worship comes.

Enter LUCIUS JUNIUS, L.

Claud. Whither so fast, good Junius, tell us whither?

Luc. To Rome, to Rome—the queen demands my presence.

The state needs aid, and I am called to court. [*They laugh.*
Am I a fool? If so, you cannot say
I'm the first fool graced by a monarch's favour.

Aruns. Why, Junius, travel has improved thy wit:
Thou speakest shrewdly.

Luc. Do I so, my lord?
I'm always glad when you and I agree;
You have just such a wit as I should choose.
Would I could purchase such! though it might split
My head, as confined air does—water bubbles!

Claud. How say you? Purchase? Prithee, what would'st give?

Luc. What would I give?—ten acres of my land.

Aruns. Thy land! Where lies it?

Luc. Ask the king, my cousin:
He knows full well. I thank him, he's my steward,
And takes the trouble off my hands.

Claud. Who told thee so?

Luc. The king himself. Now twenty years are past,

Or more,—since he sent for me from my farm.
 ‘Kinsman,’ said he, with a kind, gracious smile,
 ‘For the black crime of treason which was charged
 ‘Against thy father and thy elder brother,
 ‘Their lives have paid: for thee, as I love mercy,
 ‘Live and be happy: simple is thy mind’—

Aruns. True, kinsman, true—i’faith, ’tis wondrous simple.

Luc. ‘And that simplicity will be a pledge
 ‘That thou wilt never plot against thy sovereign.’

Claud. Indeed, for that I’ll be your bondsman, *Junius.*

Luc. ‘Live in my house, companion of my children.
 ‘As for thy land, to ease thee of all care,
 ‘I’ll take it for thy use; all that I ask
 ‘Of thee, is gratitude.’

Aruns. And art thou not
 Grateful for goodness so unmerited?

Luc. Am I not? Never, by the holy gods,
 Will I forget it! ’Tis my constant pray’r
 To Heaven, that I may one day have the pow’r
 To pay the debt I owe him. But stay—stay—
 I brought a message to you from the king.

Aruns. Thank the gods, then, for thy good memory,
 fool!

Luc. The King, your father, sends for you to council,
 Where he debates how best to conquer Ardea.
 Shall I before, and tell him ye are coming?

Claud. Ay, or behind, or with us, or stay here—
 As thy wits prompt—as suits thy lofty pleasure.

[*Exeunt Aruns and Claudius, laughing, R.*

Luc. [*Alone.*] Yet, ’tis not that which ruffles me—the
 gibes

And scornful mockeries of ill-governed youth—
 Or flouts of dastard sycophants and jesters—
 Reptiles, who lay their bellies on the dust
 Before the frown of majesty!—All this
 I but expect, nor grudge to bear; the face
 I carry, courts it! Son of Marcus Junius!
 When will the tedious gods permit thy soul
 To walk abroad in her own majesty,
 And throw this vizard of thy madness from thee,
 To avenge my father’s and my brother’s murder?

(And sweet, I must confess, would be the draught!)
 Had this been all, a thousand opportunities
 I've had to strike the blow—and my own life
 I had not valued as a rush.—But still—
 There's something nobler to be done!—My soul,
 Enjoy the strong conception! Oh! 'tis glorious
 To free a groaning country—
 To see Revenge
 Spring like a lion from the den, and tear
 These hunters of mankind! Grant but the time,
 Grant but the moment, gods! If I am wanting,
 May I drag out this idiot-feignéd life
 To late old age, and may posterity
 Ne'er hear of Junius but as Tarquin's fool! [Exit, L.]

SCENE III.—*Rome.—A State Apartment in the Palace of Tullia.*

Enter TULLIA, preceded by GUARDS, BANNER BEARERS, LADIES, and followed by VALERIUS. She appears perturbed, and speaks apart.

Tul. [Apart.] Why should the steady mind to shadows yield?

And yet this vision shakes my frame with horror!
 I thought his spirit thundered in my ear,
 'Remember when, with wild ambition's frenzy,
 'And all Rome's empire in your view, you drove
 'Your chariot-wheels o'er your dead father's body,
 'Up to the shouting Forum!' Why, my soul,
 Dost thou not shun the remembrance of that hour?
 'Twas but the cause—the cause—For this base clay,
 How differs it from the dull earth we tread on,
 When the life's gone?—But, next, the Sibyl came,
 Whose mystic book at such a price we bought,
 And cried, 'The race of Tarquin shall be kings
 'Till a fool drive them hence, and set Rome free!'
 Strange prophecy!—What fool?—It cannot be
 That poor dolt, the companion of my sons!—
 Hark thee, Valerius—Know'st thou that same fool
 Now in the camp?

Val. I know him well.—A man
 Who, when he had a name, was Lucius Junius:—

A braver citizen Rome never boasted,
And wise and learned withal; now changed, alas!
A spectacle which humbles me to look on!

Tul. But is he harmless in his moody humours?

Val. Tame as my horse, which, though devoid of reason,

Shall turn, shall stop, and, at my angry bidding,
Shall kneel till I am thronéd on his back!
And this shall Junius: the like instinct stirs
Junius and him,—no more.

Tul. [*Apart.*] Hence, idle fears!—

—Yet, when he went to Delphi, 'tis given out
The oracle addressed him with strange portents,
And each night since, my dreams have been disturbed
By a wild form, too much resembling his,
Leading our soldiers forth with sword and flame,
Revolters from the camp, to storm the palace.
But he is sent from thence, and shall be watched.

Enter HORATIUS, L.

Hor. Your orders are obeyed: Lucius awaits.

Tul. Set him before us. [*Exit Horatius*]

[*To Valerius.*] Tell me, will he answer
If we do question him?

Val. I think he will:

Yet sometimes, when the moody fit doth take him,
He will not speak for days; yea, rather starve
Than utter nature's cravings; then, anon
He'll prattle shrewdly, with such witty folly
As almost betters reason.

HORATIUS returns with LUCIUS JUNIUS.

Tul. Hark thee, fellow,
How art thou called?

Luc. A fool.

Tul. Fool, for thy nature:
Thou answerest well,—but I demand thy name.

Luc. Nothing but fool.

Tul. His faculties are brutish:—

BRUTUS shall be thy name.

Bru. Thanks to your grace!

Hor. Dost like thy new name, gentle brute?

Bru. So well,
Who will may take the fool. I care not who—
Your highness, an' it like you.

Hor. I the fool!
Sirrah, good words, or I will have thee beaten.

Bru. A fool thou wilt not beat—a brute thou dar'st not,
For the dull ass will kick against his striker,
If struck too harshly.

Tul. Let me hear no more ;
There's mischief in his folly. Send him hence.

[*Brutus going, R.*
But stay—I'll search him farther.—Hark thee, Brutus:
Thou wast at Delphi, with our sons the princes—
Tell me—what questions put they to Apollo?

Bru. Your sons did ask who should be chief in Rome.

Tul. Ha! What replied the oracle to that?

Bru. With pains and strugglings, the prophetic dame
This destiny reported from her god—

'Great and most glorious shall that Roman be,
'Who first shall greet his mother with a kiss.'

Tul. That is fulfilled by Sextus.

Hor. Ay, he straight
Hastened from thence, and kissed the queen his mother.

Bru. Woe for me, I have no mother!—
And yet I kissed her first.

Tul. Thou kissed her? Thou?

Bru. Yea, madam; for just then my foot did slip
In the fresh blood of a new-slaughtered victim,
And, falling, I did kiss my mother—earth.

Tul. Oh, that the earth had swallowed thee outright,
Till thou hadst kissed the centre! I perceive,
The gods are leagued with folly to destroy us.
My very blood chills at my heart.—Away!

[*Exit Tullia, Guards and Ladies, rapidly, R. and L.*

Hor. Hark thee, thou Brutus:—I in part suspect
Thou ap'st this folly; if I find thee trifling
Or juggling with the Pythia for predictions,
By all the gods, I'll have thee flayed, thy skin
Striped into thongs, to strangle thee withal.
Dissembling varlet!—

[*Crosses, L., and strikes Brutus, who seizes him.*

Val. Shame, my lord! forbear!
Threat'ning a fool, you do but wrong yourself.

Hor. But that the princes love his son, brave Titus,
My dagger should have pierced his throat ere now,
And sent him to his mother earth forever !
He shall be watched.—Come, come with me, Valerius.

[*Exit*, L. U. E

Val. The gods restore thee to thyself,
And us to thee !

[*Exit*, L. U. E

Bru. [*Alone.*] A little longer,
A little longer yet support me, patience !
The day draws on : it presses to the birth—
I see it in the forming womb of time—
The embryo liberty.—Ha !—tis my son—
Down, rebel nature, down !—

Enter TITUS, R.

Tit. Welcome to Rome !
Would I might welcome thee to reason, too !

Bru. Give me thy hand—nay, give it me—

Tit. What would'st thou ?

Speak to thy son.

Bru. I had a thing to say,
But I have lost it. Let it pass—no matter.

Tit. Look not upon me with those eyes, but speak ;
What is it that annoys thee ? tell thy friend—
How can I serve thee ? What dost lack ?

Bru. Preferment.

Thou canst do much at court.

Tit. Ah, this is nothing !

Bru. So much the fitter for a fool's petition,
And a court promise.

Tit. Oh, this trifling racks me.

Bru. Lend me thine ear : I'll tell a secret to thee
Worth a whole city's ransom. This it is :
Nay, ponder it, and lock it in thy heart—
There are more fools, my son, in this wise world,
Than the gods ever made.

Tit. Say'st thou, my father ?

Expound this riddle. If thy mind doth harbour
Aught that imports a son like me to know,
Or, knowing, to achieve, declare it.

Bru. Now, my son,
Should the great gods, who made me what thou see'st,

Repent, and in their vengeance cast upon me
The burden of my senses back again—
What wouldst thou say?

Tit. Oh, my lamented father,
Would the kind gods restore thee to thy reason—

Bru. Then, Titus, then I should be mad with reason.
Had I the sense to know myself a Roman,
This hand should tear this heart from out my ribs,
Ere it should own allegiance to a tyrant.
If, therefore, thou dost love me, pray the gods
To keep me what I am. Where all are slaves,
None but the fool is happy,

Tit. We are Romans—
Not slaves—

Bru. Not slaves? Why, what art thou?

Tit. Thy son.
Dost thou not know me?

Bru. You abuse my folly.
I know thee not.—Wert thou my son, ye gods,
Thou wouldst tear off this sycophantic robe,
Tuck up thy tunic, trim these curléd locks
To the short warrior-cut, vault on thy steed;
Then, scouring through the city, call to arms,
And shout for liberty!

Tit. [*Starts.*] Defend me, gods!

Bru. Ha! does it stagger thee?

Tit. For liberty?
Saidst thou for liberty?—It cannot be.

Bru. Indeed!—'tis well—no more.

Tit. What would my father?

Bru. Begone! you trouble me.

[*Crosses, R.*]

Tit. Nay, do not scorn me.

Bru. Said I for liberty? I said it not:
The awful word, breathed in a coward's ear,
Were sacrilege to utter. Hence, begone!
Said I, you were my son?—'Tis false: I'm foolish;
My brain is weak, and wanders; you abuse it.

Tit. Ah, do not leave me; not in anger leave me.

Bru. Anger? What's that? I am content with folly:
Anger is madness, and above my aim! [*Music heard.*]
Hark! here is music for thee,—food for love,
And beauty to serve in the rich repast.

Tarquinia comes. Go, worship the bright sun,
And let poor Brutus wither in the shade. [Exit, R.

Tit. Oh, truly said! bright as the golden sun
Tarquinia's beauty beams, and I adore! [Soft music.

TARQUINIA enters, R. U. E., preceded by Damsels bearing a Crown of Gold, some with Censors, &c., proper for the ceremonials of a dedication to Fortune.

What dedication, or what holy service,
Doth the fair client of the gods provide?
In the celestial synod is there one
Who will not listen to Tarquinia's prayer?

Tar. I go to Fortune's temple, to suspend
Upon the votive shrine this golden crown.
While incense fills the fane, and holy hymns
Are chaunted for my brother's safe return,
What shall I ask for Titus?

Tit. Though the goddess,
In her blind bounty, should unthrone the world,
To build me one vast empire, my ambition,
If by thy love unblest, would slight the gift:
Therefore of Fortune I have naught to ask:—
She hath no interest in Tarquinia's heart—
Nature, not Fortune, must befriend me there.

Tar. Thy gentle manners, Titus, have endeared thee,
Although a subject Roman, to Tarquinia.
My brother Sextus wears thee next his heart;
The queen herself, of all our courtly youth,
First in her favour holds the noble Titus;
And though my royal father well may keep
A jealous eye upon thy Junian race,—
A race unfriendly to the name of king,—
Yet thee he cherishes; with generous joy
The monarch sees thy early virtue shoot,
And with a parent's fondness rears its growth.

Tit. Oh! neither name, nor nature, nor the voice
Of my lost father, could he wake to reason,
Not all the wrongs that tyranny could pile
On my afflicted head,—not all the praise
That patriot gratitude could shower upon me,
Can shake the faithful purpose of my soul,
To sever it from love and my Tarquinia.

Tar. Approve that firmness in the shock of trial,
And if my love can recompense thy virtue,
Nor tortures, nor temptations, nor the wreck
Of Rome and empire, shall divide me from thee.
To this I pledge my hand. Now to the temple!

[*Exeunt omnes.*]

END OF ACT I.

ACT II.

SCENE I.—*The Tent of Sextus in the Camp before Ardea.
A magnificent Banquet.*

SEXTUS, R., COLLATINUS, R. C., CLAUDIUS, L. C., and ARUNS,
L., *discovered, drinking.*

Sex. Come, then, here's to the fairest nymph in Italy,
And she's in Rome.

Aruns. Here's to the fairest nymph in Italy;
And she is not in Rome.

Sex. Where is she, then?

Aruns. Ask Collatine; he'll swear she's at Collatia.

Sex. His wife!

Aruns. Even so. [They rise and come forward]

Claud. Is it so, Collatine?

Well, 'tis praiseworthy, in this vicious age,
To see a young man true to his own spouse.
Oh, 'tis a vicious age! When I behold
One who is bold enough to steer against
The wind of tide and custom, I behold him
With veneration; 'tis a vicious age!

Col. Laugh on, though I'm the subject! If to love
My wife's ridiculous, I'll join the laugh;
Though I'll not say if I laugh *at* or *with* you!

Aruns. [*Ironically.*] The conscious wood was witness
to his sighs,

The conscious Dryads wiped their watery eyes,
For they beheld the wight forlorn, to-day,
And so did I;—but I shall not betray.
Here now he is, however, thanks to me—
That is, his semblance, for his soul dwells hence.

How was it when you parted? [*Mimicking.*] *She*—‘my
‘love,

‘Fear not, good sooth, I’ll very constant prove.’

He :—‘And so will I,—for whereso’er I steer,
‘Tis but my mortal clay; my soul is here.’ [*All laugh.*]

Sex. And pr’ythee, Collatine, in what array
Did the god Hymen come to thee? How dressed,
And how equipped? I fear me much, he left
His torch behind, so that thou couldst not see
A fault in thy beloved; or was the blaze
So burning bright, that thy bedazzled eyes
Have since refused their office?

Col. And doth Sextus
Judge by his own experience, then, of others?
To him, I make no doubt, hath Hymen’s torch
Discovered faults enough! what pity ’twas
He had not likewise brought i’ th’ other hand,
A mirror, where the prince might read himself.

Sex. I like thee now: thou’rt gay, and I’ll be grave.
As to those dear, delicious creatures, women,
Hear what my own experience has taught me :—
I’ve ever found ’em fickle, artful, amorous,
Fruitful in schemes to please their changeful fancies,
And fruitful in resources when discovered.
They love unceasingly—they never change—
Oh, never!—no!—excepting in the object!
Love of new faces is their first great passion;
Then love of riches, grandeur, and attention!
Knowing all this, I seek not constancy,
But, to anticipate their wishes, rove,
Humour their darling passion, and am blessed!

Col. This is the common cant—the stale, gross, idle,
Unmeaning jargon, of all those, who, conscious
Of their own littleness of soul, avoid
With timid eye the face of modest virtue;
Who, mingling only with the base, and flushed
With triumphs over those they dare attack,
The weak, the forward, or depraved, declare
(And fain would make their shallow notions current,)
That womankind are all alike, and hoot
At virtue, whereso’er she passes by them.
I have seen sparks like these—and I have seen

A little worthless village cur, all night
Bay with incessant noise the silver moon,
While she, serene, throned in her pearléd car,
Sailed in full state along.—But Sextus' judgment
Owns not his words,—and the resemblance glances
On others, not on him.

Sex. Let it glance where and upon whom it will,
Sextus is mighty careless of the matter.

Now hear what I have seen. I've seen young men,
Who, having fancied they have found perfection—

Col. Sextus, no more—lest I forget myself,
And thee.—I tell thee, prince—

Aruns. Nay, hold !
Sextus, you go too far.

Sex. Why, pray, good sir, may I not praise the wife
Of this same testy, froward husband here,
But on his cheek offence must quivering sit ?
And dreamed of insult !—the abortive child
Of misconstruction, whose near-sighted eye
Discerns not jest for real.

Col. I heed you not—jest on ; I'll aid your humour :
Let Aruns use me for his princely laughter,
Let Claudius deck me with ironic praise ;
But when you touch a nearer, dearer subject,
Perish the man, nay, may he doubly perish,
Who can sit still, and hear, with skulking coolness,
The least abuse, or shadow of a slight,
Cast on the woman whom he loves ! though here
Your praise or blame are pointless equally,
Nor really add the least, nor take away
From her true value, more than they could add
To th' holy gods.

Aruns. If that a man might dare to ope his lips
When Collatinus frowns, I would presume
To say one word in praise of my own wife ;
And I will say, could our eyes stretch to Rome,
In spite of the perfections of Lucretia,
My wife, who loves her fire-side, and hates gadding,
Would prove far otherwise employed—and better,—
Ay, better, as a woman, than the deity
Residing at Collatia.

Sex [*Aside.*] Well timed ;—I'll seize th' occasion :

View this Lucretia ere I sleep, and satisfy
My senses whether fame has told the truth.
[*Aloud.*] I'll stake my life on't—Let us mount our horses,
And post away this instant towards Rome.
That we shall find thy wife, and his, and his,
Making the most of this, their liberty.
Why, 'tis the sex : enjoying to the full
The swing of licence which their husbands' absence
Affords. I'll stake my life that this is true :
And that my own, (ill as I may deserve it)—
Knows her state best, keeps best within the bounds
Her matron duties claim ; that she's at home,
While yours are feasting at their neighbours' houses.
What say'st thou, Collatine,
On rioting at home ?

Col. Had I two lives, I'd stake them on the trial,
Nor fear to live both out.

Sex. Let us away, then.
Come, come, my Collatinus,—droop not thus—
Be gay.

Col. I am not sad—

Sex. But fearful for th' event.

Col. Not in the least.

Sex. A little.

Col. Not a whit :

You do not know Lucretia.

Sex. But we shall.

Let's lose no time. Come, brothers ! Let's away.
[*Exeunt omnes, R.*]

SCENE II.—*Rome.—An Apartment in the Palace.*

Enter BRUTUS, L.

Bru. [*Alone.*] Oh, that some light would beam from
heav'n to teach me
When to burst forth, and how to gain my purpose !
For Rome I would resign all other bonds,
And tear each private tie from my fixed heart.
—Ha !—Some one comes ! It is my son ! He seems
Wrapt in Elysium, and elate with joy ! [Retires.]

Enter TITUS, L.

Tit. Tis done ! 'tis done ! auspicious are the fates

Tarquinia's word is pledged, and all is brightness !

Bru. [*Coming down.*] That exclamation was too lofty,
boy :

Such raptures ill become the troubled times—
Of such, no more.

Tit. Oh ! at an hour like this,
Who could repress the thrill of grateful joy !

Bru. [*Eagerly.*] What dost thou mean ?

Tit. Tarquinia.

Bru. What of her ?

Tit. Her vows are pledged,
And Heaven's propitious smile will make her mine.

Bru. Thine ? What ! Thine ? Heaven make Tarquinia thine ?

Away ! away ! Heav'n spurns the race she springs from !

Tit. How !—Father, wert thou to thyself restored,
Thou would'st exult to see thy son thus blest.
Our vows are past. They cannot be recalled.
And soon the nuptial altar will behold her
My own forever.

Bru. No, Titus, not forever !

If thou art mine, thou canst not be Tarquinia's.
Renounce thy father—or renounce thy love.

Tit. Nay, loose me, father—this is frenzy all.
E'en hadst thou spoken the dictates of thy soul,
(For sure thou canst not know what thou requir'st,)
I must not, would not, could not, yield Tarquinia.
Nay—let me go—or my racked heart will break.

Bru. Leave me. Retire. Thine is no Roman heart.
Ere long the moon will change—the moon—my goddess—

And then thou may'st behold a change in Brutus.

Tit. 'Tis as I thought ; Folly resumes its reign.
Look on him, oh, ye gods !

Grant him once more the treasure now withheld,
And to his son restore a long lost father ! [*Exit, R.*

Bru. [*Alone.*] I was too sudden. I should have delayed,
And watched a surer moment for my purpose.
He must be frightened from this dream of love.

What, shall the son of Junius wed a Tarquin !

As yet I've been no father to my son—

I could be none : but, through the cloud that wraps me

I've watched his mind with all a parent's fondness,
 And hailed, with joy, the Junian glory there.
 Could I once burst the chains which now enthrall him.
 My son would prove the pillar of his country—
 Dear to her freedom as he is to me.
 The time may come when heaven will heal our wrongs—
 To your hands, mighty powers, I yield myself—
 I will not doubt heaven's goodness or Rome's virtue—
 Then, hence despair! Still thou and I are twain!
[Exit, L.

SCENE III.—*The House of Collatinus, at Collatia.—An Apartment lighted up.*

LUCRETIA *discovered, surrounded by her Maids, all employed in embroidery, and other female occupations.—*
LAVINIA is on the R. of Lucretia.

Luc. How long is it, Lavinia, since my lord
 Hath changed his peaceful mansion for the camp
 And restless scenes of war?

Lav. Why, in my simple estimation, madam,
 'Tis some ten days, or thereabout, for time
 Runs as it should with me—in yours, it may be
 Perhaps ten years.

Luc. I do not understand thee.
 Say'st thou, with me time runs not as it should?
 Explain thy meaning.—What should make thee think so?

Lav. All that I mean is, that if I were married,
 And that my husband were called forth to th' wars,
 I should not stray through the grove next my house,
 Invoke the pensive solitude, and woo
 The dull and silent melancholy—brood
 O'er my own thoughts alone, or keep myself
 Within my house mewed up, a prisoner.
 'Tis for philosophers

To love retirement; women were not made
 To stand cooped up like statues in a niche,
 Or feed on their own secret contemplations.

Luc. Go to; thou know'st not what thou say'st, Lavinia.

I thank the gods, who taught me that the mind,
 Possessed of conscious virtue, is more rich

Than all the sunless hoards which Plutus boasts ;
 And that the chiefest glory of a woman
 Is in retirement—that her highest comfort
 Results from home-born and domestic joys,—
 Her noblest treasure, a deserving husband !
 —Who, not a prisoner to the eye alone,
 A fair complexion or melodious voice,
 Shall read her deeper—nor shall time, which palls
 The rage of passion, shake his ardent love,
 Increasing by possession. This, (again I thank
 The gracious gods)—this husband, too, is mine !

[Crosses, R.

—Soft—I hear footsteps ! Hour of rapture ! Look !
 My life, my love, my Collatinus comes !

Enter COLLATINUS, CLAUDIUS, ARUNS, and SEXTUS L.
Lucretia rushes into the arms of Collatinus

My lord, most welcome !

Col. Welcome these, my friends,
 Lucretia !—our right royal master's sons ;
 Passing this way, I have prevailed with them
 To grace our humble mansion.

Luc. Welcome yourself !
 And doubly welcome, that you bring such friends.
 Haste, maidens, haste—make ready for our guests !

[Exeunt Attendants, R.

My heart is full of joy !

Aruns. Rather, fair lady,
 You should be angry, that unseasonably,
 And with abrupt intrusion, we've thus broke
 Upon your privacy.

Luc. No, my good lord ;
 Those to whom love and my respect are due,
 Can ne'er intrude upon me ; had I known
 This visit, you, perhaps, might have been treated
 With better cheer—not a more kind reception.
 This evening, little did I think my house
 Would have possessed such lodgers.

Claud. Rather, lady,
 Such birds of passage—we must hence to-night.

Luc. To-night ? Doth not my lord say no to that ?

Col. I would, Lucretia ; but it cannot be.

If aught the house affords, my dearest love,
To set before your guests, I pray prepare it :
We must be at the camp ere morning dawn.
An hour or two will be the utmost limit
Allowed us here.

Luc. With all the speed I can, [Crosses, R.
I'll play the caterer ; though I am tempted,
Would that delay your journey, to be tardy,
And prove a sluggish housewife. [Exit.

Sex. This is indeed a wife ! Here the dispute
Must end ;—

And, Collatinus, we must yield to thee !

Aruns. I will not envy thee,—but 'tis a wife
Of wives—a precious diamond, picked
From out the common pebbles. To have found her
At work among her maids at this late hour,
And not displeased at our rude interruption—
Not to squeeze out a quaint apology,
As, 'I am quite ashamed ; so unprepared !
'Who could have thought ! Would I had known of it !'
And such like tacit hints, to tell her guests
She wishes them away—thou'rt happy, Collatine.

Col. Enough, enough !
The gods forbid I should affect indifference,
And say you flatter me. I am most happy.—
But Sextus heeds us not. He seems quite lost.

Sex. Pray, pardon me :
My mind was in the camp. How wine could heat us
To such a mad exploit, at such a time,
Is shameful to reflect on : let us mount
This instant, and return.

Col. Now we are here,
We shall encroach but little on our time
If we partake the slender fare together
Which will, by this, await us. Pray, my lords,
This way. [Exit.

Sex. Along—I'll follow straight.

[Exeunt Aruns and Claudius.

[Apart.] Had she staid here till now, I should have done
Nothing but gaze. Nymphs, goddesses
Are fables ; nothing can, in heaven or earth,
Be half so fair ! But there's no hope ! Her face,

Her look, her eye, her manners, speak a heart
 Unknowing of deceit; a soul of honour,
 Where frozen chastity has fixed her throne,
 And unpolluted nuptial sanctity.
 —Peace, undigested thoughts! Down—down! till, ri-
 pened
 By further time, ye bloom! [Exit, R.]

END OF ACT II.

ACT III.

SCENE I.—*Rome.—The Capitol.—Equestrian Statue of Tarquinius Superbus.—Night.—Thunder and Lightning.*

Enter BRUTUS, L. U. E.

Bru. [Alone.] Slumber forsakes me, and I court the
 horrors
 Which night and tempest swell on every side.
 Launch forth thy thunders, Capitolian Jove!
 Put fire into the languid souls of men;
 Let loose thy ministers of wrath amongst them,
 And crush the vile oppressor! Strike him down,
 Ye lightnings! Lay his trophies in the dust!
 [Storm increases]
 Ha! this is well! flash, ye blue-forkéd fires!
 Loud-bursting thunders, roar! and tremble, earth!
 [*A violent crash of thunder, and the Statue of Tarquin, struck by a flash, is shattered to pieces.*]
 What! fallen at last, proud idol! struck to earth!
 I thank you, gods! I thank you! When you point
 Your shafts at human pride, it is not chance,
 'Tis wisdom levels the commissioned blow.
 But I—a thing of no account—a slave—
 I to your forkéd lightnings bare my bosom
 In vain—for what's a slave—a dastard slave?
 A fool, a Brutus? [Storm increases.] Hark! the storm
 rides on!
 The scolding winds drive through the clattering rain,
 And loudly screams the haggard witch of night.

Strange hopes possess my soul. My thoughts grow wild,
Engender with the scene, and pant for action.
With your leave, majesty, I'll sit beside you,
And ruminat awhile. [*Sits on a fragment of the Statue.*
Oh, for a cause! A cause, ye mighty gods!
Soft, what stir is this?

Enter VALERIUS, followed by a MESSENGER, L.

Val. What! Collatinus sent for, didst thou say?

Mes. Ay, Collatinus, thou, and all her kinsmen!
To come upon the instant to Collatia;
She will take no denial. Time is precious,
And I must hasten forth to bring her husband.

[*Crosses behind, and exit, R.*

Bru. [*Apart.*] Ha! Collatinus and Lucretia's kinsmen!
There's something sure in this—Valerius, too
Well met—Now will I put him to the test—
Valerius—Hoa!

Val. Who calls me?

Bru. Brutus.

Val. Go,

Get thee to bed!

[*Valerius is departing.*

Bru. Valerius!

Val. Peace,

Thou foolish thing! Why dost thou call so loud?

Bru. Because I will be heard! The time may come
When thou may'st want a fool.

Val. Pr'ythee, begone!

I have no time to hear thy prattle now.

Bru. By Hercules, but you must hear.

[*Seizing his arm.*

Val. You'll anger me.

Bru. Waste not your noble anger on a fool—

Twere a brave passion in a better cause.

Val. Thy folly's cause enough.

Bru. Rail not at folly—

There's but one wise,
And him the gods have killed.

Val. Killed? Whom?

Bru. Behold!

Oh, sight of pity!—Majesty in ruins!
Down on your knees—down to your kingly idol!

Val. Let slaves and sycophants do that : not I.

Bru. Wilt thou not kneel ?

Val. Begone ;

Valerius kneels not to the living Tarquin.

Bru. Indeed !—Belike you wish him laid as low ?

Val. What if I do ?

Bru. Jove tells thee what to do—

Strike !—Oh ! the difference 'twixt Jove's wrath and
thine !

He, at the crownéd tyrant aims his shaft :

Thou, mighty man, would'st frown a fool to silence.

And spurn poor Brutus from thee.

Val. What is this ?

Let me look nearer at thee. Is thy mind,
That long-lost jewel, found ?—and Lucius Junius,
Dear to my heart, restored ? Or art thou Brutus,
The scoff and jest of Rome, and this a fit
Of intermittent reason ?

Bru. I am Brutus !

Folly, be thou my goddess ! I am Brutus,

If thou wilt use me so !—If not, farewell.

Why dost thou pause ? Look on me ! I have limbs,

Parts and proportions, shoulders strong to bear,

And hands not slow to strike ! What more than Brutus

Could Lucius Junius do ?

Val. A cause like ours

Asks both the strength of Brutus, and the wisdom

Of Lucius Junius.

Bru. No more—we're interrupted.

Val. Farewell. Hereafter we'll discourse.

And may the gods confirm the hope you've raised !

[Exit, R.]

Bru. [Alone.] My soul expands ! my spirit swells with—
in me,

As if the glorious moment were at hand !

Sure this is Sextus—why has he left the camp ?

Alone—and muffled !

Enter SEXTUS, wrapped in a mantle, R. U. E., and crosses, L.

Welcome, gentle prince !

Sex. Ha ! Brutus here !—Unhoused amid the storm ?

Bru. Whence com'st thou, prince ? from battle ? from
the camp ?

Sex. Not from the camp, good Brutus—from Collatia—
The camp of Venus,—not of Mars, good Brutus.

Bru. Ha!

Sex. Why dost thou start?—thy kinswoman, Lucretia—

Bru. [*Eagerly.*] Well—what of her? speak!

Sex. Ay, I will speak,—

And I'll speak *that* shall fill thee with more wonder,
Than all the lying oracle declared.

Bru. Nay, prince, not so; you cannot do a deed
To make me wonder.

Sex. Indeed! Dost think it?

Then let me tell thee, Brutus,—wild with passion
For this famed matron,—though we met but once,—
Last night I stole in secret from the camp,
Where, in security, I left her husband.

She was alone. I said affairs of consequence
Had brought me to Collatia. She received me
As the king's son, and as her husband's friend—

Bru. [*Apart.*] Patience, oh, heart!—a moment longer,
patience!

Sex. When midnight came, I crept into her chamber—

Bru. [*Apart.*] Inhuman monster!

Sex. Alarmed and frantic,

She shrieked out, 'Collatinus! Husband! Help!'
A slave rushed in—I sprung upon the caitiff,
And drove my dagger through his clamorous throat;
Then, turning to Lucretia, now half dead
With terror, swore, by all the gods, at once,
If she resisted, to the heart I'd stab her;
Yoke her fair body to the dying slave,
And fix pollution to her name forever!

Bru. And—and—the matron?—

Sex. Was mine!

Bru. [*With a burst of frenzy.*] The furies curse you,
then! Lash you with snakes!

When forth you walk, may the red flaming sun
Strike you with livid plagues!—

Vipers, that die not slowly, gnaw your heart!

May earth be to you but one wilderness!

May you hate yourself—

For death pray hourly, yet be in tortures
Millions of years expiring!

Sex. Amazement ! What can mean this sudden frenzy ?

Bru. What ? Violation ! Do we dwell in dens,
In caverned rocks, or amongst men in Rome ?

[*Thunder and lightning become very violent.*
Hear the loud curse of Heaven ! 'Tis not for nothing
The thunderer keeps this coil above your head !

[*Points to the fragments of the statue.*
Look on that ruin ! See your father's statue
Unhorsed and headless ! Tremble at the omen !

Sex. This is not madness. Ha ! my dagger lost !—
Wretch ! thou shalt not escape me. Ho ! a guard !—
The rack shall punish thee ! A guard, I say ! [*Exit.*

Bru. [*Alone.*] The blow is struck ! the anxious mes-
sages

To Collatinus and his friends, explained :
And now, Rome's liberty or loss is certain !
I'll hasten to Collatia—join my kinsmen—
To the moon, folly ! Vengeance, I embrace thee ! [*Exit.*

SCENE II.—*An Apartment in the House of Collatinus.*

COLLATINUS enters wildly, a bloody dagger in his hand,
followed by VALERIUS and LUCRETIVS, R.

Col. *She's dead ! Lucretia's dead ! I plucked this
steel

From my Lucretia's heart ! This is her blood !
Howl, howl, ye men of Rome ! Look ! there she lies,
That was your wonder !

Ye mighty gods, where are your thunders now ?

Ye men and warriors, have you human hearts ?

Is there who shall dare to mourn her loss like me ?

Enter BRUTUS, L.

Bru. I dare,—and so dare every honest Roman.

Luc. Whence comes this mad intrusion ? Hence, be-
gone !

Bru. The noble spirit fled ! How died Lucretia ?

Val. By her own hand she died !

Bru. Heroic matron !

Now, now the hour is come ! By this one blow

* The scene which was omitted after the first representation, and for which this introductory speech of Collatinus is substituted, will be found in a note at the end of the play.

Her name's immortal, and her country saved! [*Crosses, c.*
Hail! dawn of glory! [*Snatching the dagger.*] Hail, thou
sacred weapon!

Virtue's deliverer, hail!

Hear, Romans, hear! did not the Sibyl tell you,
A fool should set Rome free? I am that fool:

Brutus bids Rome be free! [*Crosses, L.*

Val. What can this mean?

Bru. It means that Lucius Junius has thrown off
The mask of madness, and his soul rides forth
On the destroying whirlwind, to avenge
The wrongs of that bright excellence and Rome!

Luc. Can this be Lucius Junius?

Val. Ha! The voice
Of inspiration speaks!

Col. Oh, glorious Brutus,
Let me in tears adore the bounteous gods
Who have restored thee to redress my woes;
And, in my woes, my country!

Bru. No more of this.
Stand not in wonder. Every instant now
Is precious to your cause. Rise! Snatch your arms!
[*Kneels.*

Hear me, great Jove! and thou, paternal Mars,
And spotless Vesta! To the death, I swear
My burning vengeance shall pursue these Tarquins!
Ne'er shall my limbs know rest till they are swept
From off the earth, which groans beneath their infamy!
This, from the bottom of my soul, I swear! [*Rises.*

Valerius, Collatine, Lucretius,—all—
Here, I adjure ye by this fatal dagger,
All stained and reeking with her sacred blood,
Be partners in my oath—revenge her fall!

All. We swear!

Bru. Well have ye said: and, oh, methinks I see
The hovering spirit of the murdered matron
Look down and bow her airy head to bless you!
Summon your slaves, and bear the body hence
High in the view, through all the streets of Rome,
Up to the Forum!—On! The least delay
May draw down ruin, and defeat our glory.
On, Romans, on! The fool shall set you free!

[*Exeunt omnes.*

SCENE III.—*The Palace of Tullia.*

Enter FLAVIUS CORUNNA, L., in haste, meeting HORATIUS, R.

Cor. My lord, my lord! Quick, tell me, where is Tullia?

Hor. Whence this alarm? what would'st thou?

Cor. Rebellion rages—

Hor. Rebellion?

Cor. Lucretia,

The wife of Collatinus, is no more.

The furious multitude have borne her body

With shouts of vengeance through the streets of Rome,
And 'Sextus Tarquin,' is the general cry.

Hor. Where are thy troops? why dost thou dally here,
When thou should'st pay their insolence with death?

Cor. The soldiers join the throng—the gates are closed,
And the mad crowd exclaim, 'We banish Tarquin.'
Brutus is at their head, and leads them on.

Hor. What miracle is this? How say'st thou, Brutus?

Cor. Ay, the fool Brutus. Now before the rostrum
The body of Lucretia is exposed,
And Brutus there harangues assembled Rome.
He waves aloft

The bloody dagger; all the people hear him

With wildest admiration and applause;

He speaks as if he held the souls of men

In his own hand, and moulded them at pleasure.

They look on him as they would view a god,

Who, from a darkness which invested him,

Springs forth, and, knitting his stern brow in frowns,

Proclaims the vengeful will of angry Jove.

Hor. Fly through the city; gather all the force

You can assemble, and straight hasten hither.

I'll to the queen—Lose not a moment. Hence!

I tremble for Rome's safety!—haste!—begone!

[*Exeunt, Horatius, R., Corunna, L.*]

SCENE IV.—*The Forum.*

The Populace fill the Stage. BRUTUS is discovered upon the Forum. The dead body of LUCRETIA is on a bier

beneath. COLLATINUS, LUCRETIOUS, and the Female Attendants of Lucretia stand around her Corpse. VALERIUS and others are seen.

Bru. Thus, thus, my friends, fast as our breaking hearts Permitted utterance, we have told our story ; And now, to say one word of the imposture— The mask necessity has made me wear. When the ferocious malice of your king,— King do I call him ?—When the monster, Tarquin, Slew, as you most of you may well remember, My father Marcus and my elder brother, Envyng at once their virtues and their wealth, How could I hope a shelter from his power, But in the false face I have worn so long ?

1st Rom. Most wonderful !

2d Rom. Silence ! he speaks again.

Bru. Would you know why I summoned you together ? Ask ye what brings me here ? Behold this dagger. Clotted with gore ! Behold that frozen corse ! See where the lost Lucretia sleeps in death ! She was the mark and model of the time, The mould in which each female face was formed The very shrine and sacristy of virtue ! Fairer than ever was a form created By youthful fancy when the blood strays wild, And never-resting thought is all on fire ! The worthiest of the worthy ! Not the nymph Who met old Numa in his hallowed walks, And whispered in his ear her strains divine, Can I conceive beyond her ;—the young choir Of vestal virgins bent to her. 'Tis wonderful, Amid the darnel, hemlock, and base weeds Which now spring rife from the luxurious compost Spread o'er the realm, how this sweet lily rose,— How from the shade of those ill neighbouring plants Her father sheltered her, that not a leaf Was blighted, but, arrayed in purest grace, She bloomed unsullied beauty. Such perfections Might have called back the torpid breast of age To long-forgotten rapture ; such a mind Might have abashed the boldest libertine, And turned desire to reverential love

And holiest affection ! Oh, my countrymen !
You all can witness when that she went forth :
It was a holiday in Rome ; old age
Forgot its crutch, labour its task,—all ran ;
And mothers, turning to their daughters, cried,
' There, there's Lucretia ! ' Now, look ye, where she lies !
That beauteous flower, that innocent sweet rose,
Torn up by ruthless violence—gone ! gone ! gone !

All. Sextus shall die ! [Shout.

Bru. But then—the king—his father—

1st Rom. What shall be done with him ?

2d Rom. Speak, Brutus !

3d Rom. Tell us ! Tell us !

Bru. Say, would you seek instruction ? would ye ask
What ye should do ? Ask ye yon conscious walls,
Which saw his poisoned brother, saw the incest
Committed there, and they will cry, Revenge !
Ask yon deserted street, where Tullia drove
O'er her dead father's corse, 'twill cry, Revenge !
Ask yonder senate-house, whose stones are purple
With human blood, and it will cry, Revenge !
Go to the tomb where lies his murdered wife,
And the poor queen, who loved him as her son,
Their unappeaséd ghosts will shriek, Revenge !
The temples of the gods, the all-viewing heavens,
The gods themselves, shall justify the cry,
And swell the general sound, Revenge ! Revenge !

All. Revenge ! Revenge !

Bru. And we will be revenged, my countrymen !
Brutus shall lead you on ; Brutus, a name
Which will, when you're revenged, be dearer to him
Than all the noblest titles earth can boast. [Shout.

1st Rom. Live, Brutus !

2d Rom. Valiant Brutus !

3d Rom. Down with Tarquin !

2d Rom. We'll have no Tarquins !

1st Rom. We will have a Brutus !

3d Rom. Let's to the Capitol, and shout for Brutus !

Bru. I your king ?

Brutus your king ?—No, fellow-citizens !
If mad ambition in this guilty frame
Had strung one kingly fibre,—yea, but one—

By all the gods, this dagger which I hold
Should rip it out, though it entwined my heart.

Val. Then I am with thee, noble, noble Brutus!
Brutus, the new restored! Brutus, by Sibyl,
By Pythian prophetess foretold, shall lead us!

Bru. Now take the body up. Bear it before us
To Tarquin's palace; there we'll light our torches,
And, in the blazing conflagration, rear
A pile for these chaste relics, that shall send
Her soul amongst the stars. On! Brutus leads you!
[*Exeunt, the Mob shouting, R.*]

END OF ACT III.

ACT IV.

SCENE I.—*A Court belonging to Tarquin's Palace. In the front, a Grand Entrance, with Folding Gates closed.*

Enter TULLIA, R.

Tul. [*Alone.*] Gods! whither shall a frantic mother fly?
Accurséd seige of Ardea! Tarquin, Tarquin,
Where art thou? Save thy wife, thy son, thy city!

Enter TITUS, R.

Tit. Where is the prince? where's Sextus?

Tul. Where? Oh, heavens!
His madness hath undone us! Where is Sextus?
Perhaps ev'n now the barbarous ruffians hurl him
Alive into the flames, or, piece-meal, drag
Along the rebel streets his mangled trunk—

Tit. No more! I'll save him, or avenge—

[*Going, Horatius meets and stops him.*]

Hor. Turn, noble Roman, turn;
Set not your life upon a desperate stake! [Shout.
Hark! they are at thy gates! [Shout.

Tul. Does my son live!

Hor. Furious he sprang upon the rebel throng,
And hewed his desperate passage: but the time
Admits no further question—Save yourself!

Tul. Who leads them on?

Hor. Your new-named fool, your Brutus.

Tit. Death! my father?

Tul. Brutus in arms!

Oh, Sibyl! Oh, my fate! farewell to greatness!
I've heard my doom.

Tit. Earth, earth, enclose me!

Tul. Hark! it bursts upon us! [*Shouts are heard.*]

Hor. Ha! nearer yet! Now be propitious, Mars!

Now nerve my arm with more than mortal fury,
Till the dissembler sink beneath its vengeance. [*Exit.*]

Tul. Fly! save my child—save my—save your Tarquinia!

Tit. Or die defending. [*Exit.*]

[*The shouts and tumult become very violent, and the battering at the gate and wall commences.*]

Tul. Ah! if amidst my legions I might fall,
Death were not then inglorious; but to perish
By the vile scum of Rome—hunted by dogs—
Baited to death by brawling, base mechanics—
Shame insupportable!

[*Shouts heard—the Gate and Wall are shattered down, the Palaces behind are in flames—the Soldiers and Populace rush over the Ruins—Brutus appears in the midst of them, and advances to the front.*]

Bru. Seize the parricide!

[*They advance and surround her.*]

Tul. Avaunt! I am your queen.

Bru. Tarquins! we cast you from us.

Tul. Give me a sword, and let me fall like Tullia.

Bru. No, we reserve our swords for nobler uses
Than to make war with women: to the Tarquins,
To your adulterous son, we leave that shame.

Tul. If then 'twill better sate thy cruelty,
Precipitate me quick into those flames,
And with the wreck of empire mix my ashes.

Bru. Take her to Rhea's temple; take her hence,
And lodge her with her ancestors!

Tul. Ye gods!

My father's sepulchre!—I'll not approach it!

Bru. 'Twill furnish wholesome recollection. Hence!

Tul. Not to that fatal place! Send me not thither!

Bru. 'Tis fixed.

Tul. Choose the most loathsome dungeon—there can
fine me,
Or give me death instead. My heart recoils
Against that temple.

Bru. There, and only there,
By your dead father's tomb, you must abide
The judgment of the state.

Tul. Then, by the gods,
Whom, for the last time, I invoke,—
If no means else
Of ready death present themselves,
No particle of food shall pass these lips,
Till, in the void of nature, hungry madness,
With blank oblivion entering, shall confound
And cancel all perception. [*Exit Tullia guarded, R.*]

Enter TITUS, L., *who meets Brutus as he is going off, R.*

Tit. Turn, oh, my father,
And look upon thy son!

Bru. What would'st thou? speak

Tit. If thou hast reason, oh, have mercy also!
But if in madness thou hast done this deed—

Bru. I am not mad, but as the lion is,
When he breaks down the toils that tyrant craft
Hath spread to catch him. Think not we will suffer
These monsters to profane the air of Heaven.
Shall Titus, then, oppose our great design?
Shall Brutus meet a recreant in his son?

Banish this folly!—Have a care! I know thee—
There is a lurking passion at thy heart,
Which leaves but half a soul for Rome and me!

Tit. You wrong me. Like a Roman I exult
To see Lucretia's murder thus avenged—
And like a son glory in such a father!
Yet hear me through.—Nay, do not frown, but hear me.—

Bru. Go on; confess thy weakness, and dismiss it.

Tit. 'Twas in the sleep of my dear father's reason,
When Tarquin's freed-man, in a saucy mood,
Vented vile jests at thy unhappy weakness;
Stung to the quick, I snatched a weapon up,
And felled him to my foot.

Bru. Why, 'twas well done.

The knave was saucy, and you slew him —On !

Tit. 'Twas on this very spot Tarquinia stood,
And when the wrathful father had denounced
Immediate death on this my filial act,
She with the tongue of interceding pity,
And tears that streamed in concert with her suit,
Implored, prevailed, and gave me life--and love.

Bru. 'Tis well. Behold, I give her life for life :
Rome may be free, although Tarquinia lives.
This I concede ; but more if thou attemptest,—
By all the gods !—Nay, if thou dost not take
Her image, though with smiling Cupids decked,
And pluck it from thy heart, there to receive
Rome and her glories in without a rival,
Thou art no son of mine, thou art no Roman ! [*Exit, R.*

Enter TARQUINIA, L.

Tar. Save, save me, Titus ! oh, amid the crash
Of falling palaces, preserve Tarquinia !
Or, do I meet in thee a double rebel,
Traitor alike to me and to your king ?
Speak, I conjure thee ! Will the son of Brutus
Now take me to his pity and protection,
Or stab with perfidy the heart that loves him !

Tit. Cruel suspicion ! Oh, adored Tarquinia,
I live but to preserve you ! You are free :
I have my father's sanction for your safety !

Tar. I scorn a life that is preserved by Brutus !
I scorn to outlive parents, brothers, friends !
I'll die with those
Whom this dire night hath murdered !

Tit. Who are murdered ?
Whom hath the sword of Brutus slain ? Not one
Of all thy kindred—

Tar. Say'st thou ? Lives my mother ?

Tit. She lives—and Sextus,—even he escapes
The storm which he has raised, and flies to Ardea.

Tar. Speed him, ye gods, with eagle swiftness thither !
And may those thunders which now shake the walls
Of tottering Ardea, like a whirlwind burst
On this devoted city, 'whelm its towers,
And crush the traitorous hive beneath their ruins.

[*Crosses, R.*

Now, Titus, where is now thy promised faith?
Didst thou not swear no dangers should divide us?

Tit. I did; and, constant to my oath, behold me
Thy faithful guardian in this night of terrors.

Tar. Be still my guardian; snatch me from these terrors,

Bear me to Ardea, be the friend of nature,
And give the rescued daughter to the arms
Of her protecting parent; thus you gain
The praise of men, the blessings of the gods,
And all that honour, all that love can grant.

Tit. Despair! Distraction! Whither shall I turn me?

Tar. Why do you waver? Cast away this weakness;
Be glorious in your cruelty, and leave me.
By all the demons who prepare the heart
To rush upon the self-destroying steel,
The same dire moment which gives thee to Brutus,
Gives me to death!

Tit. Horror! Tarquinia, hold!

Tar. Lo! I am armed. Farewell! [*Crosses, L.*] How
I have loved you,

My death shall witness—how you have deceived me,
Let your own conscience tell.—Now to your father!
Now go, and mingle with the murderers;
Go, teach those fiends what perjury can do,
And show your hands bathed in Tarquinia's blood
The filial deed shall welcome you to Brutus,
And fill his gloomy soul with savage joy.

Tit. Take, take me hence forever! Let me lose,
In these dear arms, the very name of son,
All claims of nature, every sense but love!

Tar. The gods that guard the majesty of Rome,
And that sweet power, whose influence turns thy heart
To pity and compliance, shall reward
And bless thee for the deed!

Tit. Can he be blest,
On whom a father's direful curse shall fall?

Tar. A madman's imprecation is no curse.
Be a man.

Tit. Oh, while thy love upholds me, I can stand
Against the world's contempt; remember, only,
For whose dear sake I am undone; remember,

My heart was honour's once—

Tar. And shall be ever !

Come, I will show thee where bright honour grows,
Where thou shalt pluck it from the topmost branch,
And wear it in its freshest, fairest bloom. [Exeunt, L.]

SCENE II.—*A Street in Rome.*

Enter HORATIUS and CELIUS, L.

Hor. Brutus and Collatinus are appointed
To sovereign sway, as consuls for the year.
Their self-elected senate meets to-morrow,
Though some remain, too honest for their views.
These for security exact conditions—
They ask a chief, whose well-established fame
May win the hearts of this inconstant people ;
A chief so brave, that, should we prove victorious,
He may compel the king to keep his faith ;
Or, if we fall, boldly revenge our deaths—
And such a chief I've found.

Cel. Indeed ! In whom ?

Hor. The consul's son—his much-loved son—young
Titus.

Cel. What ! to rebel against his father's power ?

Hor. Ay, he is ours. This very night, Tarquinia
Will lead him forth to the Quirinal gate,
Whence they straight hasten to the camp at Ardea.
Impetuous youth is wrought upon with ease.
Though 'tis his father's frown upon his love,
And early vows pledged to the fair Tarquinia,
Alone which prompt him thus to lead our band :
Once in our power, we'll mould him to our ends :
His very name will prove a tower of strength,
And Rome, once more, shall be restored to Tarquin.

Cel. Bravely resolved ! But tell me—where is Tullia ?

Hor. A captive, and confined in Rhea's temple ;
Watched by the vestals, who there guard the flame
Upon the tomb where lies her murdered father.
Unhappy Tullia ! our swords shall soon release thee.
Come ! Hence at once ! The hour draws near—away !
Ere two days pass these reptiles shall be crushed,
And humbled Rome sue for its monarch's pardon.

[Exeunt *Horatius and Celius*, R.]

Enter LUCRETIUS and VALERIUS, L.

Val. That was Horatius 'parted, was it not ?

Luc. The same.

Val. Am I deceived ? Methinks I heard
Something like discontent and treason muttered.

Luc. I fear all is not safe. Assembled groups
Of Tarquin's friends have been seen close in conference,
Muttering his name aloud. Ay, and some base,
Degenerate Romans, called for a surrender.

Val. Horatius' arts may justly wake suspicion :
And Rome, we know, is still disgraced by many
Too base, too sordid, to be bravely free.

Let us go forth and double all the guards,
See their steps watched, and intercept their malice.

Luc. Nay, there's a safer course than that ; arrest
them !

Val. The laws and rights we've sworn to guard, for-
bid it !

Let them be watched. We must not venture farther.

To arrest a Roman upon bare surmise,

Would be at once to imitate the tyrant

Whom we renounce, and from his throne have driven !

[*Exeunt, R.*

SCENE III.—*Rome.—A little dark.—The Temple of Rhea, with a large Central Door leading to the Tomb of Servius Tullius, late King of Rome. On one side of the Stage, a Statue of Rhea, and on the other, a Statue of Vesta, with altars, and incense burning before each.*

PRIESTESS of Rhea. VIRGINS of the Temple.

Pr. Daughters of Rhea, since the lords of Rome
Have to your holy hands consigned the charge
Of their now captive Queen, inform the Priestess
How your sad prisoner abides her durance.
Is her proud soul yet humbled, or, indignant,
Doth it still breathe defiance and contempt ?

Vir. Sullen and silent, she resolves on death :
She will not taste of nourishment. She comes.

Enter TULLIA, L.

Pr. I pray you, royal lady, be entreated—

Tul. I tell you, no !

Pr. Think what a train of weary hours have passed
Since you had taste of food.

Tul. 'Tis well !

The fewer are to come.

Pr. How can you live to meet your royal husband,
To fold your children in your arms again,
If you resist support ?

Tul. Ha ! well remembered !

What news from Ardea ? Will he march for Rome ?
Hark ! Do you hear his trumpet ? Is he coming ?
Ay, this is hope, and worth the feeding.

'Tis well—'tis well !

But, tell me—doth the king know of this kindness ?

Pr. What king ?

Tul. What king ?

Brutus, the king of Rome,—knows he of this ?

Pr. He does.

Tul. And would he I should live ?

Pr. He would.

Tul. Merciful villain !

Yes, he would have me live to page his triumphs :

I know the utmost of his mercy—

Subtle traitor !

I'll not taste food, though immortality

Were grafted to each atom—Hark ! What's that ?

Heard you that groan ?

Pr. It is your fancy's coinage.

Tul. Again ! 'Tis deep and hollow :

It issues from the vault—Set the door open !

Open, I say.

Pr. It is your father's sepulchre !

Tul. My father ! righteous gods ! I killed my father !
Horrible retribution !

Pr. Wretched daughter,

If thou hast done this deed, prepare thy spirit,

By wholesome meditation, for atonement

And let no passion interrupt the task

Of penitence and prayer.

Tul. I'll pray no more.

There is no mercy in the skies for murder,

Therefore no praying, none.

I have a plea for my impenitence—

Madness!

These groans have made me mad; all the night through
They howled distraction to my sleepless brain!

You've shut me up with furies to torment me,
And starved me into madness. Hark! again!

Unbar the door! Unbar it! By the gods,
The voice is more than human, which I hear!

I'll enter there—I will be satisfied,

Although the confirmation should present

His awful form—

[*She rushes forward. The Priestess and Vestals, in confusion and alarm, spring to the bar, which, falling with a crash, the door flies open, and discovers a Monumental Figure of Servius Tullius, with lamps burning on each side of it. Tullia recoils, shrieks, falls, and expires. The others group around her, and the Curtain falls to soft music.*]

END OF ACT IV.

ACT V.

SCENE I.—*A Street in Rome, with the Temple of Mars in view.*

Enter BRUTUS and COLLATINUS, as Consuls, with LICTORS, VALERIUS, LUCRETIVS, and numerous followers, L.

Bru. You judge me rightly, friends. The purpled robe,

The curule chair, the lictors' keen-edged axe,
Rejoice not Brutus;—'tis his country's freedom!
When once that freedom shall be firmly rooted,
Then, with redoubled pleasure, will your consul
Exchange the splendid miseries of power,
For the calm comforts of a happy home.

Enter a MESSENGER, L.

Mes. All health to Rome, her Senate, and her consuls.

Bru. Speak on—What message hast thou to impart?

Mes. I bring intelligence of Sextus Tarquin,
Who, on arriving at a neighbouring village,
Was known, and by the people stoned to death. [*Exit, L*

Bru. Now, Lucretia,
Thy ghost may cease to wander o'er the earth,
And rest in peace!

Luc. Heaven's ways are just!

Col. Yet I regret the villain should be slain
By any hand but mine!

Enter a CENTURION, R.

Cent. Health to Brutus!
Shame and confusion to the foes of Rome!

Bru. Now, without preface, to your business.

Cent. As I kept watch at the Quirinal gate,
Ere break of day, an armed company
Burst on the sudden through the barrier guard,
Pushing their course for Ardea. Straight alarmed,
I wheeled my cohort round, and charged 'em home:
Sharp was the conflict for a while, and doubtful,
Till, on the seizure of Tarquinia's person,
A young Patrician—

Bru. Ha! Patrician?

Cent. Such
His dress bespoke him, though to me unknown.

Bru. Proceed!—What more?

Cent. The lady being taken,
This youth, the life and leader of the band,
His sword high waving in the act to strike,
Dropped his uplifted weapon, and at once
Yielded himself my prisoner. Oh, Valerius,
What have I said, that thus the consul changes?

Bru. Why do you pause? Go on.

Cent. Their leader seized,
The rest surrendered. Him, a settled gloom
Possesses wholly, nor, as I believe,
Hath a word passed his lips, to all my questions
Still obstinately shut.

Bru. Bring him before us. [*Exit Centurion, R.*

Val. Oh, my brave friend, horror invades my heart.

Bru. Silence—be calm.

Val. I know thy soul

A compound of all excellence, and pray
The mighty gods to put thee to no trial
Beyond a mortal bearing.

Bru. No, they will not—

Nay, be secure,—they cannot. Pr'ythee, friend,
Look out, and if the worst that can befall me
Be verified, turn back, and give some sign
What thou hast seen—Thou can'st excuse this weakness,
Being thyself a father. [*Valerius gives the sign.*

Ha!—enough:

I understand thee:—Since it must be so,
Do your great pleasure, gods! Now, now it comes!

TITUS and TARQUINIA are brought in, R., guarded. Titus advances, Tarquinia remains in the back-ground.

Tit. My father!—Give me present death, ye powers!

Cent. What have I done!—Art thou the son of Brutus?

Tit. No, Brutus scorns to father such a son!

Oh, venerable judge, wilt thou not speak?

Turn not away; hither direct thine eyes,
And look upon this sorrow-stricken form,
Then to thine own great heart remit my plea,
And doom as nature dictates.

Val. Peace,—you'll anger him—

Be silent, and await! Oh, suffering mercy,
Plead in a father's heart, and speak for nature!

[*Brutus turns away from his son, waves his hand to the Centurion to remove him to a farther distance, and then walks forward and calls Collatinus down to him, L.*

Bru. Come hither, Collatinus. The deep wound
You suffered in the loss of your Lucretia,
Demanded more than fortitude to bear;
I saw your agony—I felt your woe—

Col. You more than felt it—you revenged it, too.

Bru. But, ah! my brother consul, your Lucretia
Fell nobly, as a Roman spirit should—
She fell, a model of transcendent virtue.

Col. My mind misgives. What dost thou aim at, Brutus?

Bru. [*Almost overpowered.*] That youth—my Titus—
was my age's hope—

I loved him more than language can express—
I thought him born to dignify the world.

Col. My heart bleeds for you—He may yet be saved—

Bru. [*Firmly.*] Consul,—for Rome I live—not for myself:

I dare not trust my firmness in this crisis,
Warring 'gainst everything my soul holds dear!
Therefore return without me to the Senate—
Haply my presence might restrain their justice.
Look that these traitors meet their trial straight,—
And then despatch a messenger to tell me
How the wise fathers have disposed of—Go!

[*Collatinus goes out, R., attended, and as Brutus is departing, L., Tarquinia rushes forward, R.*]

Tar. Stop,—turn and hear the daughter of your king!
I speak for justice—mercy, thou hast none,
For him, your son:—
By gratitude and love I drew him off—
I preserved his life!

Who shall condemn him for protecting mine?

Bru. We try the crime; the motive, Heaven will judge.
My honour he hath stabbed—I pardon that.
He hath done more—he hath betrayed his country.
That is a crime which every honest heart
That beats for freedom, every Roman feels,
And the full stream of justice must have way.

Tar. Because thy soul was never swayed by love,
Canst thou not credit what his bosom felt?

Bru. I can believe that beauty such as thine
May urge a thousand fascinating snares
To lure the wavering and confound the weak;
But what is honour, which a sigh can shake?
What is his virtue, whom a tear can melt?
Truth—valour—justice—constancy of soul—
These are the attributes of manly natures:—
Be women e'er so beauteous, man was made
For nobler uses than to be her slave.

Tar. Hard, unrelenting man! Are these the fruits
Of filial piety,—and hath thy son
Wearied the gods with pray'rs, till they restored
A mind, and gave thee reason? Would to Heaven
They'd given thee mercy, too! 'twould more become thee

Than these new ensigns, Brutus ; more than all
Thy lictors, haughty consul,—or thy robes
Dipped in the blood,—oh, horror !—of a son !—

Bru. No more—By all the gods, I'll hear no more !

Tit. A word, for pity's sake. Before thy feet,
[*To Brutus.*

Humbled in soul, thy son and prisoner kneels—
Love is my plea : a father is my judge ;
Nature my advocate !—I can no more :
If these will not appease a parent's heart,
Strike through them all, and lodge thy vengeance here !

Bru. Break off ! I will not, cannot hear thee further !
The affliction nature hath imposed on Brutus,
Brutus will suffer as he may.—Enough
That we enlarge Tarquinia. Go, be free !
Centurion, give her conduct out of Rome !
Lictors, secure your prisoner. Point your axes.
To the Senate—On ! [*Exeunt Brutus and Guards, L.*

Cent. Come, lady, you must part.

Tar. Part ! Must we part ?

You must not tear him from me ; I will die
Embracing the sad ruin I have made.

Cent. You've heard the consul.

Tar. Thou hast heard the king,
Fought for him while he led you on to conquest.
Thou art a soldier, and should'st spurn an office
Which malefactors, though condemned for murder,
Would rather die by torture than perform.

Tit. If thou dost wish
That I should 'scape the peril of my fate,
I conjure thee to accord
To Brutus, and accept his promised safeguard.
Your words, your looks, your beauty, feed his wrath ;
In that fair face he reads my guilty love,
And pity flies his heart. Let passion pause ;
Leave me to solitude, to silence leave me ;
Then nature's gentlest whispers may be heard.

Tar. Say'st thou ? Conduct me to the dreariest waste
That ever melancholy madness trod,
And let my swelling heart in silence burst ;
Plunge me in darkness, shroud this fatal form
In everlasting night, I am content !

Lo! I obey! This is the test of love :
This is the sacrifice :—I part to save thee !

[*Officers advance.*

Tit. See, I am warned. Farewell, my life's last joy!
When my eyes lose thy image, they may look
On death without dismay. To those blessed powers
Who gave thee every virtue, every grace
That can ensure perfection, I commit thee.

[*They embrace, and are torn asunder. Titus is carried off by the Lictors, L., and Tarquinia faints and is borne off by the Centurion and Guards, R.*

SCENE II.—*Rome.—An Apartment in the House of Brutus*

Enter BRUTUS, R.

Bru. [*Alone.*] Like a lost, guilty wretch, I look around
And start at every footstep, lest it bring
The fatal news of my poor son's conviction!—
Oh, Rome, thou little know'st—No more—It comes.

Enter VALERIUS, L.

Val. My friend, the Senate have to thee transferred
The right of judgment on thy son's offence.

Bru. To me !

Val. To thee alone.

Bru. What of the rest ?

Val. Their sentence is already passed.
E'en now, perhaps, the lictor's dreaded hand
Cuts off their forfeit lives.

Bru. Say'st thou, that the Senate have to me referred
The fate of Titus ?

Val. Such is their sovereign will.
They think you merit this distinguished honour.
A father's grief deserves to be revered :
Rome will approve whatever you decree.

Bru. And is his guilt established beyond doubt ?

Val. Too clearly.

Bru. [*With a burst of tears.*] Oh, ye gods ! ye gods !
[*Collecting himself.*] Valerius !

Val. What would'st thou, noble Roman ?

Bru. 'Tis said thou hast pulled down thine house, Valerius,
The stately pile that with such cost was reared.

Val. I have; but what doth Brutus then infer?

Bru. It was a goodly structure: I remember
How fondly you surveyed its rising grandeur.—
With what a—fatherly—delight you summoned
Each grace and ornament, that might enrich
The—child—of your creation,—till it swelled
To an imperial size, and overpeered
The petty citizens, that humbly dwelt
Under its lofty walls, in huts and hovels,
Like emmets at the foot of tow'ring Ætna:
Then, noble Roman, then with patriot zeal,
Dear as it was, and valued, you condemned
And levelled the proud pile; and, in return,
Were by your grateful countrymen sirnamed,
And shall to all posterity descend,—
Poplicola.

Val. Yes, Brutus, I conceive
The awful aim and drift of thy discourse—
But I conjure thee, pause! Thou art a father.

Bru. I am a Roman consul!—What, my friend,
Shall no one but Valerius love his country
Dearer than house, or property, or children?
Now, follow me;—and, in the face of Heaven,
I'll mount the judgment-seat: there, see if Brutus
Feel not for Rome as warmly as Poplicola. [*Exeunt, R*

SCENE III.—*Exterior of the Temple of Mars.—Senators,
Citizens, COLLATINUS, and LUCRETIUS, discovered. At
L. of Stage, a Tribunal, with a Consular Chair upon
it.*

*BRUTUS enters, R., followed by VALERIUS—he bows as he
passes, and ascends the Tribunal.*

Bru. Romans, the blood which hath been shed this day
Hath been shed wisely. Traitors, who conspire
Against mature societies, may urge
Their acts as bold and daring; and though villains,
Yet they are manly villains—But to stab
The cradled innocent, as these have done,—
To strike their country in the mother-pangs
Of struggling child-birth, and direct the dagger
To freedom's infant throat,—is a deed so black,

That my foiled tongue refuses it a name. [A pause.
 There is one criminal still left for judgment—
 Let him approach.

*TITUS is brought in by the LICTORS, R., with their axes
 turned edgeways towards him.*

Pris—on—er—[*The voice of Brutus falters, and is choked,
 and he exclaims, with violent emotion.*

Romans, forgive this agony of grief—

My heart is bursting—Nature must have way—

I will perform all that a Roman should—

I cannot feel less than a father ought !

[*He becomes more calm. Gives a signal to the Lictors
 to fall back, and advances from the Judgment-Seat
 to the front of the Stage, on a line with his son.*

Well, Titus, speak—how is it with thee now ?

Tell me, my son, art thou prepared to die ?

Tit. Father, I call the powers of heaven to witness
 Titus dares die, if so you have decreed.

The gods will have it so ?

Bru. They will, my Titus :

Nor heav'n, nor earth, can have it otherwise.

It seems as if thy fate were pre-ordained

To fix the reeling spirits of the people,

And settle the loose liberty of Rome.

'Tis fixed ;—oh, therefore, let not fancy cheat thee :

So fixed thy death, that 'tis not in the power

Of mortal man to save thee from the axe.

Tit. The axe !—Oh, heaven !—Then must I fall so
 basely ?

What, shall I perish like a common felon ?

Bru. How else do traitors suffer ?—Nay, Titus, more—

I must myself ascend yon sad tribunal—

And there behold thee meet this shame of death,

With all thy hopes, and all thy youth upon thee.—

See thy head taken by the common axe,—

All,—if the gods can hold me to my purpose,—

Without one groan, without one pitying tear.

[*Turns up, as if in agony.*

Tit. Die like a felon ?—Ha ! a common felon !—

But I deserve it all :—yet here I fail :—

This ignominy quite unmans me !

Oh, Brutus, Brutus! Must I call you father, [*Kneels.*
 Yet have no token of your tenderness,
 No sign of mercy? Not even leave to fall
 As noble Romans fall, by my own sword?
 Father, why should you make my heart suspect
 That all your late compassion was dissembled?
 How can I think that you did ever love me?

Bru. Think that I love thee by my present passion,
 By these unmanly tears, these earthquakes here,
 These sighs that strain the very strings of life,—
 Let these convince you that no other cause
 Could force a father thus to wrong his nature.

Tit. Oh, hold, thou violated majesty: [*Rises.*
 I now submit with calmness to my fate.
 Come forth, ye executioners of justice—
 Come, take my life,—and give it to my country?

Bru. Embrace thy wretched father. May the gods
 Arm thee with patience in this awful hour.
 The sovereign magistrate of injured Rome
 Condemns

A crime, thy father's bleeding heart forgives.
 Go—meet thy death with a more manly courage
 Than grief now suffers me to show in parting;
 And, while she punishes, let Rome admire thee!
 Farewell! Eternally farewell!—

Tit. Oh, Brutus! Oh, my father!—

Bru. What would'st thou say, my son?

Tit. Wilt thou forgive me?

When I shall be no more, forget not my *Tarquinia*.

Bru. Leave her to my care.

Tit. Farewell, forever!

Bru. Forever!

[*Re-ascends the Tribunal*

Lictors, attend!—conduct your pris'ner forth!

Val. [*Rapidly and anxiously.*] Whither?

[*All the characters bend forward in great anxiety.*

Bru. To death!—[*All start.*] When you do reach the
 spot,

My hand shall wave your signal for the act,
 Then let the trumpet's sound proclaim it done!

[*Titus is conducted out by the Lictors, R.—A dead
 march,—which gradually dies away as it becomes
 more distant. Brutus remains seated in a melan-
 choly posture on the Tribunal.*

POOR youth ! Thy pilgrimage is at an end !
 A few sad steps have brought thee to the brink
 Of that tremendous precipice, whose depth
 No thought of man can fathom. Justice now
 Demands her victim ! A little moment,
 And I am childless.—One effort, and 'tis past !—

[He rises and waves his hand, convulsed with agitation, then drops in his seat, and shrouds his face with his toga. Three sounds of the trumpet are heard instantly.—All the characters assume attitudes of deep misery.—Brutus starts up wildly, descends to the front in extreme agitation, looks out on the side by which Titus departed, for an instant, then, with an hysterical burst, exclaims,

Justice is satisfied, and Rome is free !

[Brutus falls.—The characters group around him.

THE END.

NOTE.

The following Scene in the Third Act was omitted after the first representation, in compliance with the wishes of many who thought it injurious to the general effect of the Play. As, however, there was some difference of opinion upon this point, the Scene is here inserted as it originally stood. LUCRETIA is supposed to be surrounded by her relations,—COLLATINUS and LUCRETIVS by her side,—her hair dishevelled, wild in her attire, and all the other characters in attitudes of deep grief.

Luc. Bear witness, then, Lucretia's mind is guiltless—
 Yet never can Lucretia smile again !
 Lost to herself, her husband, and her child,
 Lost to the world, her country, and her friends,
 The arms of love can pillow her no more,
 And the sweet smile of her dear innocent babe
 Would but awaken her to deeper anguish !
 And shall she live, bereft of all life's treasures,
 The spectre of the past forever rising

To fright her into madness? Think not, countrymen,
Indignant virtue can survive pollution!

By her own hand a Roman wife can fall. [*Stabs herself.*
'Tis to the heart! Tarquin, the blow was thine! [*Falls.*

Col. Beloved, unhappy wife! What hast thou done?

Luc. A deed of glory. Now, my husband, now—
With transport can I press thee to my bosom.
Father and kinsmen, ye can own me now!
My pure soul springs from its detested prison!
Virtue exults! The gods applaud my daring!
And to our dear, loved babe, I can bequeath
A mother's noblest gift—a spotless name! [*Dies.*

Luc. Staff of my age! Gone, gone, forever gone!
A wretched father's last and only joy!
Come, death, strike here! Your shaft were welcome
now!

Snatch me from earth to my poor, lost, loved child!

Col. My wife! my wife! Dear, dear, wronged, murdered wife!

Let me be rooted here in endless sorrow—

Who, who shall dare to mourn her loss like me?

Enter BRUTUS, L.

Bru. I dare,—and so dare every honest Roman.

The Scene then proceeds as printed in the preceding pages.

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